GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:2008
ANSWERED ON:15.12.2003
CONSTRUCTION OF FOREST ROADS
SURESH KODIKUNNIL

Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Kerala has submitted any proposals regarding construction of forest roads under NABARD scheme to the Government for clearance;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the decision taken by the Government in this regard?

Answer

MINISTER OF ENVIRONMENT & FORESTS (SHRI T. R. BAALU)

(a) & (b) No proposal for clearance under Forest (Conservation) Act, 1980 has been received from the Kerala Government regarding construction of forest roads under NABARD Scheme. However, the State Government has sought general exemption under Forest (Conservation) Act, 1980 and Environment (Protection) Act, 1986 for improvement of forest roads including tarring by availing financial assistance from NABARD.

(c) The State Government has been informed that that the Environmental clearance is required for tarring of forest roads and there is no provision for any exemption. Regarding clearance under Forest (Conservation) Act, 1980 it has been clarified that for the works undertaken after 1980, if the road passes through National Park or Sanctuary or it involves felling of trees or it does not exclusively relate or ancillary to conservation, development and management of forests and wildlife, the approval of Government will be necessary. Roads serving dual purposes will also require forestry clearance.